

E 364

FLS

2015

019840

.9

.W12

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



00005022228







A

LETTER

TO A

GENTLEMAN OF BOSTON,

OCCASIONED BY SOME ILL TREATMENT EXPERIENCED

BY

I. H. WADDELL, FROM ANDREW ALLEN, Esq.

British Consul for the state of Massachusetts.


~~~~~

Boston, Nov. 9, 1812:

SIR,

I TOOK the opportunity of seeing my countryman, Mr. Skinner the *Vice Consul*,\* on Saturday morning. After the usual words of civility, I said ‘Mr. Skinner, I was with a gentleman yesterday, who *desired*,† or rather *advised* me to see you and acquaint you with my great distress, and desire to get to Halifax, and entreat your assistance upon the occasion.’—Before I had proceeded farther, Mr. Skinner began to smile, observing it was a little extraordinary, after there had been so many opportunities that had passed, for going to Halifax, that I should *now* be desirous to go, when there was *no opportunity*. I proceeded, you need not laugh Mr. Skinner, I am very serious, and it is a serious application: there is now

\* So informed by Mr. S. F. Coolidge, of the Consular Office, late Clerk to Mr. Skinner, and I believe now a Partner.

† Desired, &c. the premeditated and precise words.

a vessel that I can go in, and it will sail to-morrow. Mr. Skinner replied, is there ? I did not know that. W. Yes, there is ; and it is going to Eastport. S. Oh ! Eastport ! I have nothing to do with Eastport. W. But I have ; and I shall go to Halifax, by way of Eastport. S. There will be a Cartel in a day or two, and you *may* (I believe he said *will*) go in that. Well, sir, since that is the case, will you have the goodness to send me to a house, where I can board for a few days : my situation is wrought up to excessive great distress, and I stand in need of any friendly assistance I can obtain.—I paused to see if Mr. Skinner would make any reply—which he not doing; I said, Mr. Skinner, may I take the liberty to ask—are you a Nephew of Admiral Sawyer ? I wish you was. S. said, No, sir ; but I have the pleasure of knowing Admiral Sawyer. W. Very like, sir, I wish I knew him ; but I'll endeavour to know him as soon as possible.—Will you be so good, Mr. Skinner, as to let me have a dollar or two, to bear my expences for a few days; Skinner remaining mute, I proceeded—will you afford me a meals Victuals ? S. Sir, I don't keep a *House* ! I went on, but you keep a quarter of a dollar in your pocket, Mr. Skinner ! Will you let me have a quarter of a dollar, to get a dinner. Ere I had proceeded thus far, a per-

son came into the Counting House, who Mr. Skinner familiarly addressing—said, Ah! Mr. Gardner, I expected you was at Halifax. He replied, his Brother was gone in his stead. I spoke to the stranger—sir, may I take the liberty of asking you, if you are a British subject? He said No, sir, I am not. I continued to address Mr. Skinner—will you, sir, have the goodness to let me have a dollar, or a quarter of a dollar—no answer, but evasive repleis. Mr. Skinner, I have to acknowledge you have kept your word with me, certainly much to my astonishment—you will recollect, when I mentioned to you two months ago, in the Exchange Coffee-house, that the Consul had used me in the most shameful manner, you replied, then I should be *used worse*,\* and my answer, that was impossible; but I have to ask your pardon, sir, I was rather

\* What gave rise to this was as follows:—On the 28th Aug. I left a note at Mr. Skinner's, in Federal-Street, requesting an answer, which not obtaining, about the 3d or 4th September meeting Mr. Skinner in the Exchange Coffee-House, I spoke to him, and said, You have not had the goodness Mr. Skinner to send any answer, or take any notice of my letter. He replied, “Go to the Consul.” I answered, The Consul has used me in the most shameful manner. He immediately said, ‘Then you'll be used worse.’ I instantly replied, That's impossible, sir,—and we dispersed. The Consul's abuse of me to Capt. Daeres was sometime subsequent to this.

mistaken in my apprehension of possibilities, you was perfectly correct, sir, and have kept your word. He has used me worse, and he has contributed as far as was in his power, by his insolence and arrogance, by his slander and falsehood, to reduce me to beg *from door to door* ;\* he has cowardly and infamously abused me ; he has called me *a damn'd rascal*, not in my presence, but in the presence of respectable witnesses, Captain Dacres and the person I sent, and consequently deprived me of a passage to Halifax and to Europe. Pray, sir, are you acquainted with one *Henderson*,† a stout man, a fat fellow ? You know him ! If you don't, the

\* Mr. Pratt and Mr. Boot, two English merchants of Boston.

† It is to be observed, that a week previous to the 7th of November, the time of this interview with Skinner, I had learned the fate of an intended appeal and application from me to Halifax from this Henderson, viz. that my letters and a bill of Exchange for 50 pounds sterling, I sent for Halifax, were not taken, and was told by Henderson they were in—his necessary. On relating this fellow's conduct to me, I was informed by a person who knows both the Consul and Henderson, that the Consul was a particular friend of his, &c. and from Henderson's behaviour to me, and the information I received, I had no doubt Henderson had been instructed by the Consul to insult me in the manner he did, and that Henderson, (to please the Consul, or at his request,) had prevailed on Gillis, a master of a ship lately brought in as a prize, with whom I sent my letters, to destroy my letters and bill of

Consul does, they are very intimate, I understand ; they are probably tippling companions. Mr. Skinner now advanced upon me. Sir, I am not to be intimidated ; you must retreat as many paces backward : I now come not here to ask for charity, I have tried that these five months, and have found it totally useless : this is the British Consul's office, and I now stand here for right and justice. Mr. Skinner now put on his hat, and going towards the door, threatened to fetch authority. Pray begone, sir, I shall then have leisure to set down and take breath. But Mr. Skinner, before he had got to the door, returned and said, Sir, if it was not for your misfortunes, you should not behave in this way. I rejoined, Sir, if it was not for my misfortunes, you would not treat me as you have done ; nor should the Consul dare to do so, unredressed, or unresented by me. You will recollect, sir, I have appeared here with a shirt as black as your coat, in the most deplorable and starving state, begging the means to obtain a meals victuals ! Would you afford it me ? No—and I am convinced you would not give me a drink of water was it to save my life.

exchange, or hand them over to the Consul, all of which I am ready to produce a particular account of. This Henderson is a British subject, and has been sent away. And these letters and bill were suppressed or kept back by the Consul.

Mr. Gardner here interposed, and said, Why don't you try, sir? I replied, sir, I have been trying these five months, I say, without ceasing. Mr. Gardner (a stranger to me, I never saw him before, and I believe does not live in Boston) now took upon him to side with Mr. Skinner. Sir, you have no authority to judge here, you are totally unacquainted with any of the circumstances; you have acknowledged yourself a stranger; this is a contention between Englishman and Englishman, and I beg not to be interrupted. Mr. Gardner remained silent, made no reply. I then continued—Sir, you would not afford me a meals victuals, because I could not PROVE I was an Englishman; Sir, recollect my low situation, to ask for a cent to pay the toll to Charlestown, when one of those young gentlemen gave me a six cent piece. A man that would use me as the Consul has done, would maliciously deprive me of existence; and I am convinced he said the truth, when he told me you perfectly 'concur'—concur! yes, I know you heartily concur in his unfeeling brutality, in his insolence and oppression; and every time I see you, I am more and more convinced of it. Indeed, ye are properly suited and well calculated to concur: you send me to the Consul, and he shuts the door

in my face and rejects me as neither subject nor object, telling me he has conferred with you and you concur.\*

Is the Consul appointed and paid by the British government for trampling upon the King's best subjects, of which I assert myself one! Sir, (to Gardner) I have lived in England, where by the principles of justice, and the laws of my country, I have seen the highest culprits brought to shame and condign punishment. Sir, I have seen a Governor hanged!† and a King's Son‡ disgracefully, properly cashiered from his station, the King his Father, not able to save him! And I trust, I shall never be of less regard than a private Soldier, or less perfect or deserving attention, than "*a wanton, ambling Nymph;*"|| (a laugh from Gardner, &c.)

\* Strengthening his decision, and confirming my sentence to all the horrors and evils of starvation. N. B. These words "Strengthening, &c." were not expressed, but the inference is reasonable and rational, as the fact was, and my fears and apprehensions were.

† Wall, Governor of Goree, executed in Feb. 1802, for the death of James Armstrong. *a Soldier*

‡ The Duke of York, for misapplying the trust of his office, as Commander in Chief.

|| Mrs. Clark, the cher ami of His Royal Highness.

and I trust the Consul will not remain more secure; that he will not viciously oppress, or misbehave himself with impunity, no more than the condemned Governor, or His Royal Highness! But this, sir, you may rest assured, I will at all events, take the satisfaction of exposing the circumstances and manner I have been used, and whether it will be more to the Consul's and your satisfaction than to my disgrace, I will leave your own feelings to determine; and I now tell you, Mr. Skinner, I know and practice good manners better than your superior, the Consul.

I then left the office, asking in the most civil way, Mr. Gardner's name; but he would not inform me. In my fury I had forgot his name, but soon recollect ed it.

The whole of the above took place in the presence of the two young Clerks and Mr. Gardner, as related, and if, sir, you knew the whole extent of my provocation, the incessantly repeated insulting scorn of Messrs. Allen and Co. you could not think my indignation and resentment too great.

I repeat, sir, the continued insulting scorn, the injury and injustice which I continued to experience from Messrs. Allen and Skinner, from May, to the 7th November, when Mr. Skinner triumph-

antly smiled at my submssion and disappointment,  
provoked me thus to answer scorn with scorn, and  
contumely with contumely,

I am, Sir,

Your greatly obliged, and

Humble Servant,

I. H. WADDELL.

W 46



Deacidified using the Bookkeeper process  
Neutralizing agent: Magnesium Oxide  
Treatment Date: May 2010

**Preservation Technologies**

A WORLD LEADER IN COLLECTIONS PRESERVATION

111 Thomson Park Drive  
Cranberry Township, PA 16066  
(724) 779-2111



